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UNCLAS KUWAIT 004449

SIPDIS

DEPT. FOR NEA/ARPI, NEA/I, IO/UNP, AND S/WCI  
GENEVA FOR STONECIPHER, BAGHDAD FOR KEHOE,  
OSD FOR DPMO CRONAUER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [KPOW](#) [PHUM](#) [AORC](#) [KU](#) [IZ](#) [ICRC](#)

SUBJECT: GOK FAILS TO LOCATE REMAINS OF ITS MISSING IN  
KARBALA, BUT PRAISES IIG AND U.S. ROLE

REF: KUWAIT 4132

1. (U) During Ambassador LeBaron's December 21 courtesy call on Shaykh Salem Al-Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Chairman of the National Committee for Missing and POW Affairs (NCMPA), NCMPA Director General Rabea Al-Adsani reported that Kuwaiti officials recently traveled to Karbala to search for bodies from a reported mass grave. As requested by Iraqi Human Rights Minister Bakhtiar Amin during the November Tripartite Commission meetings in Geneva, the GOK coordinated this trip with the IIG both bilaterally and through the ICRC. Although no remains were found, Al-Adsani described the mission as a success due to the joint nature of the effort. The GOK welcomed IIG participation and the chance to demonstrate that its exhumation process would not damage the site or impede IIG efforts to locate and identify victims of the Saddam Hussein regime.

2. (U) Al-Adsani was also very grateful for U.S. support and assistance. He praised MNF-I Gen. Casey's assistance in securing the area and making it possible for the GOK to carry out its investigation. He was also extremely complimentary of Baghdad Embassy Officer Greg Kehoe whom he said made it possible for IIG officials to travel to Karbala.

3. (U) Baghdad: Minimize considered.  
LEBARON